

November 18, 2024

Shila Bagley, Senior Planner / Planning Administrator
City of Sunnyvale

Gold Star
GYMNAS TICS



To whom it may concern:

The following is a project description that references the previous project approval, and the proposed addition.

Gold Star Gymnastics has been in business since May of 1996, and under this ownership since May of 2001. Pamela and Herbert Evans continue to own and operate this business to present day. The hours of operation are:

727 Sunnyvale Saratoga Rd
Sunnyvale, CA 94087

goldstargym.com

Gym 650.694.7827
Fax 650.694.1435

Monday – Fridays 9:00 am to 9:30 pm, and Saturday – Sunday 9:00 am to 6:30 pm.

The intent of this project is to move our competitive teams into an adjacent space currently occupied by Big 5 Sporting Goods. The expanded space will be dedicated to our competitive athletes, to provide more room for them to train in their respective disciplines. By giving these advanced students their own area, the beginner and intermediate classes will have more room to practice their skills in the current space which was approved and built previously. Our plans include adding a large opening between the two practice areas for the students to move freely from one side to the other without having to exit the building. Our gymnastics club is an inclusive environment, which invites youth of all ages and abilities to participate and thrive. As students improve their skills, the newly expanded space will cater to their needs for training at a competitive level.

The gym club's busiest season is during the winter months, with enrollment slowing over the summer. During the school year the bulk of the business occurs between 3:30 and 6:30 pm during the week and 9:00 am to 4:30 pm on the weekends. Start times are staggered and many classes have a 5-minute passing periods to avoid too many clients beginning and ending lessons together. During the summer (because of camps) enrollment is spread more evenly throughout the day. Since the pandemic we have also separated the students' entrances and exits. All of the children enter through our front door (addressed 727) but are picked up by their parents either at the back door on the south side of the building or at the doors addressed 725. These procedures have all helped to lessen congestion in the parking lot.

The proposed expansion will further help alleviate congestion by moving the advanced students and their parents to the Big 5 Area. These students and parents will enter and exit at the current Big 5 doors. The parking frontage, along with the addition of two new bike racks will further reduce the volume of people at the entrance of the existing facility. Competitive students have much longer training sessions, and therefore are usually dropped off and picked up several hours later. These families tend to carpool more often as they have been members of the same teams over several years.

Currently we have 3200 students enrolled across 6 programs, which differs from the last expansion when we had 2750 students enrolled across 10 programs. The majority of the students (approximately 2850) are registered in our one-hour per

Start with us. Stay with us.

week gymnastics classes and range from 2-12 years old. We have three different teams (girls, boys, and cheer) with students attending several times per week for approximately three hours per practice session. The team members range from elementary to high school aged children. These are the students who will occupy the expansion area.

Below is a chart with the average number of students in the gym during particular times of day.

Day/times	Monday – Friday	Saturday	Sunday
9:00 – 2:30	20	100	100
2:30 – 4:30	140	100	100
4:30 – 6:30	140	25	25
6:30 – 8:30	140	Closed	Closed
8:30 – 9:30	50	Closed	Closed

At our highest peak hours, we run a drop-off service. The parents are able to drive up to the front door, where a staff member hired as a traffic monitor helps the children out of their cars and into the building. This service alleviates congestion as one class ends and another begins, and helps to ensure the safety of the young students. The addition of the entrances at the former Big 5 space will allow us to expand this drop-off area and further alleviate congestion at our busiest times.

We currently have 140 employees, the majority of whom are part-time working only one shift a week. More than half of these employees are underage and not licensed to drive. Therefore, they are dropped off and picked up from work without adding another car parked in our lot. During the weekday morning hours, there are on average 7 employees in the building. During the weekday afternoons, there are on average 35 employees working. On Saturday and Sundays, an average of 25 staff members are scheduled.

In order to better understand the possible parking demands at our highest peak time, below is a table explaining the enrollments numbers. This information is drawn from Tuesday at 5:30.

Ages of Students	Number of Cars	Duration of Class	Number of Students	Estimate d Number of Cars
Pre-School students	All Parents Stay <i>many are siblings arriving in one car</i>	45 mins	18	15
School-Age students	Some Parents Stay <i>more than half are siblings arriving in one car</i>	55 mins & 85 mins	65	35
Competitive Team Athletes	Most Parents Don't Stay <i>some athletes drive themselves</i>	3 hours	60	15
Staff	Most Employees Stay <i>Teenaged Employees Dropped Off</i>		35	25
			Total	90

Gold Star GYMNASTICS



727 Sunnyvale Saratoga Rd
 Sunnyvale, CA 94087

goldstargym.com

Gym 650.694.7827
 Fax 650.694.1435

Gold Star GYMNASTICS



727 Sunnyvale Saratoga Rd
Sunnyvale, CA 94087

goldstargym.com

Gym 650.694.7827
Fax 650.694.1435

With the new expansion, the overall number of staff and competitive team athletes will not change significantly, but the number of recreational class students will increase slightly. However, by moving our competitive programs into the former Big 5 area, the clients entering and exiting the building will be spread among five doors (rather than the three we are using now), and therefore the traffic congestion will be reduced.

The total number of parking stalls (including other tenants in the shopping center and with the newly expanded Gold Star Gymnastics requiring a minimum of 5 stalls for every 1000 square feet is 312 stalls. The current shopping center parking stall count is **316** which accommodates that requirement.

The summary of our activities outlined above is typical of gymnastics centers, and stable year-round. Traffic is spread relatively evenly throughout the day until the after-school hours when it increases. At these peak times, we have implemented staggered start times, passing periods, separate entrances and exits, and drop-off services. The new use will be operated within the existing buildings. The available parking is in excess of that required by the Sunnyvale ordinances. The gym will be conducted in accordance with the General Plan of the City of Sunnyvale. We believe the expanded gymnastics training space will only improve the drop-off and pick-up vehicular circulation and offer more parking options. Additional bike parking will be added at the expansion side as well.

The proposed use of the expansion is to continue the gymnastics facility (Gold Star Gymnastics). This is a change from the Big 5 occupancy (mercantile) to A-3 Assembly. Big 5 Sporting Goods is a sporting goods corporation, which has seen a steady decline in sales since 2017, (with one exception of a short spike in sales in 2021). By early 2022 the sales decline had resumed. The store occupies 18,000 square feet and is often quite devoid of customers. The condition of the interior and exterior storefront is outdated. The Gold Star Gymnastics expansion intends to activate this area and improve the façade by extending our brand colors, logos, signage; updating the entry doors and opening the previously closed bay of storefront windows; and adding more bike parking. Translucent graphics of the gym's branding provide both natural lighting for the gymnasts and a beautiful façade for the entire elevation of this building. The space will encourage physical fitness activities, especially for children. The gymnastics use will continue to enhance the public health, safety, and general welfare of the neighborhood. Continuing to grow our long-established company in Sunnyvale is beneficial as a staple of the community and to this area. The adjacent food and beverage companies benefit as well, keeping this shopping center vibrant and lively.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Pamela Evans, Ph.D.
Owner
Gold Star Gymnastics L.L.C.
pevans@goldstargym.com
408-888-8694 (cell)
650-694-7827 (office)